

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Brian Kondas (RN 40,685) on March 9, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

- In claim 1, line 8, the phrase "and" has been removed.
- In claim 1, line ¹⁰~~11~~, the phrase "data." has been replaced with --data; and--
- In claim 1, the limitation --generating a signal indicative of the contaminants on said window surface.-- has been added to the end of the claim.

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3/27/07

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3-12, and 15-28 are allowed in view of the prior art.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 1, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method of detecting contaminants on a window surface of a viewing system comprising injecting light edgewise into the window to cause the light to pass internally through the window from one window edge to the other along an axis which intersects the viewing area of the window, in combination with the rest of the limitations of claim 1. Claims 3-10, which depend from claim 1, are also allowed in view of their dependencies on claim 1.

As to claim 11, the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious an apparatus for detecting contaminants on an external surface of a window of a viewing system comprising at least one light source disposed to inject light edgewise into the